recently directed the State Governments to check the price rise;

(b) if so, the cause of the price rise of sugar in the country; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to make the availability of sugar to the consumers at a reasonable price?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) Sugar prices in the open market remained steady during the period from December, 1986 upto May, 1988. However, the to speculative tendencies in the sugar market, the prices showed some rising trend during the months of June and July, 1988 In order to check the price rise, the Central Government has initiated the following measures:—

(i) The free sale sugar quota has been increased substantially from July, 1988.

(ii) Festival quota of 50,000 tonnes of levy sugar was allotted for each of the months of October and November, 1988, in addition to the normal monthly quota.

(iii) The State Governments were advised in June and July, 1988 and again in October, 1988 to ensure strict enforcement of the statutory provisions relating to stock holding limits and time limit prescribed for turnover of stocks. State Governments were also advised to carry out surprise checks and de-hoarding operations.

(iv) Officers of the Sugar Directorate visited sugar factories in some of the States to ensure enforcement of statutory provisions relating to weekly sales and despatches of released quantities by the sugar factories.

As a result of these measures, the range of retail prices of sugar, which was between Rs. 7.15 to Rs. 7.80 per kg at the end of June, 1988, came down to Rs. 6.55 to Rs. 7.50 per kg. as on 21-11-1988.

ILO Criticism for Manpower Export to West Asia

2794. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has criticised Government for not making a serious effort to manage, plan or canalize manpower export to West Asia;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on such criticism by ILO; and

(c) the further steps Government propose to take to improve the manpower export to West Asian countries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A number of steps have been taken to improve manpower export which include review of wage structure from time to time, simplification of emigration procedure, and publicity about the vast availability of technically trained manpower in India.

Time bound modernisation programme for the Durgapur Steel Plant

2795. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Durgapur Steel Plant were asked some time back to execute the modernisation programme within a time bound schedule;